MARVEL
#3
DAVID
BAGLEY
DELL
KEITH
BEN REILLY:
THE SCARLET SPIDER®
HENNESSY
JASON!

Years ago, Miles Warren, one of Peter Parker's college professors, stole a sample of Peter's genetic material and used it to create a perfect clone of Spider-Man. With all of Peter's memories, the clone fled. Created, not born, and without an identity of his own, he gave himself a new name and made his own way in the world as...

BEN REILLY: THE SCARLET SPIDER

After a misguided turn as a super villain, Ben is trying to get back on his feet. But things haven't been easy for him. With no resources, he went to Las Vegas in an attempt to make a new start, but he was soon confronted by Cassandra Mercury, master blackmailer and casino magnate, for failing to save her daughter from a deadly and incurable disease. Cassandra ultimately gave Ben another chance, offering him resources and promising to spare his life if he could find a cure this time.

Meanwhile, Kaine Parker, another clone of Peter Parker, caught up with Ben's old research partner Dr. Rita Clarkson, threatening her in exchange for information about Ben.

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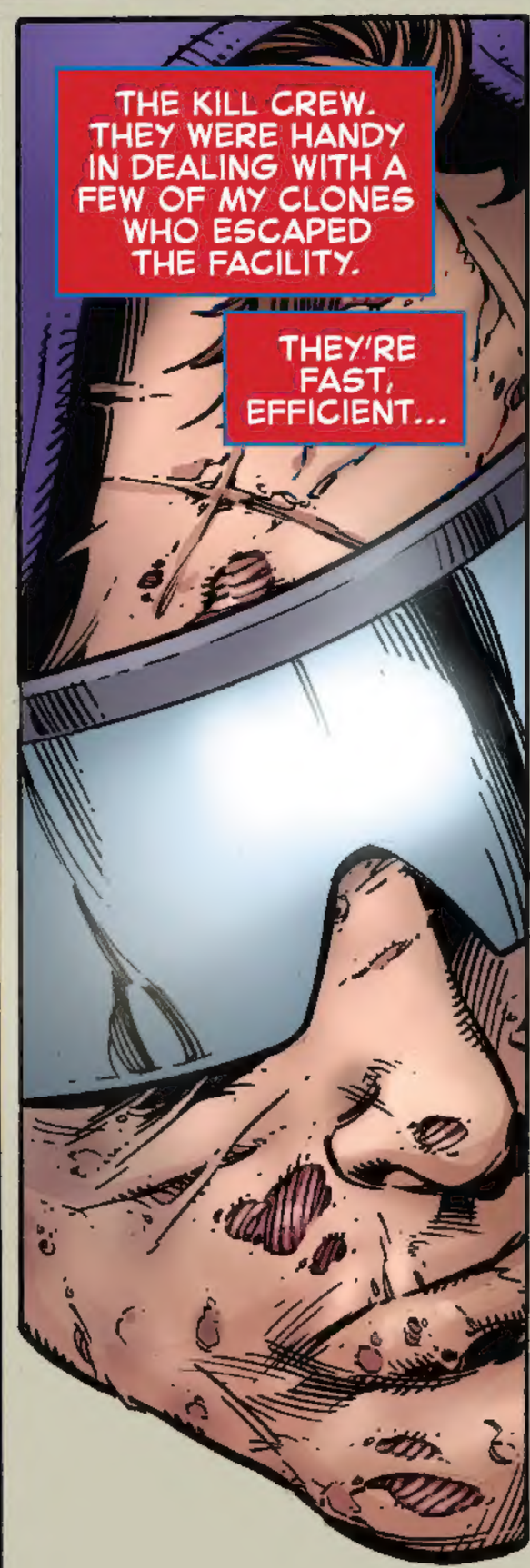
OH, WONDERFUL. THIS DOESN'T BODE WELL.

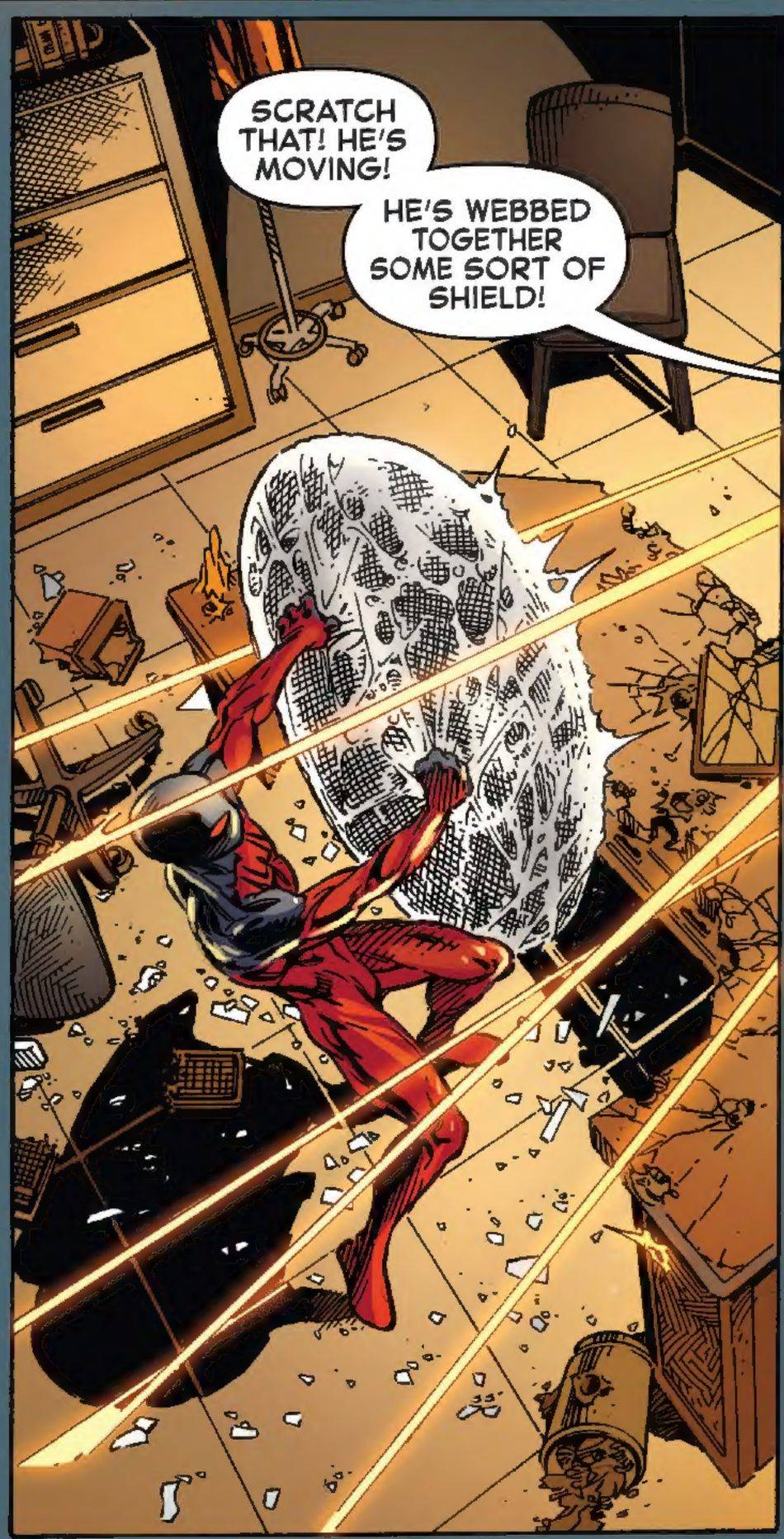
SHOULD I JUST LET IT GO TO VOICE MAIL OR--?



...AND DEADLY.
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA

YEAH, THIS EVENING'S GOING WELL.

VICTOR, THIS IS TANGO. WE'VE GOT HIM PINNED.
HE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE.


SCRATCH THAT! HE'S MOVING!
HE'S WEBBED TOGETHER SOME SORT OF SHIELD!

PERFECT.
AND, FORTUNATELY FOR ME...

...THEIR BULLETS PROVIDED ME WITH AN EXIT.

BOY, THEY HAVE QUITE THE SECURITY DETAIL.
OKAY. BETTER HEAD BACK TO THE WAREHOUSE AND FREE--
PING
UH-OH.
THWIP
YOU SHOT THE WEBLINE INSTEAD OF HIM?
I MISSED.
SURE YOU DID, FOXTROT.
VICTOR. HE GOT AWAY.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, TANGO. HE'S PROBABLY COMING BACK HERE TO FREE THE DOC.
WHISKEY AND I WILL TAKE HIM WHEN HE DOES.

SO WHAT'S THE FIRST STEP IN CURING ABIGAIL?
AS I SAID, RESEARCH.
WE NEED A TOP GENETICIST. SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN WORKING ON CROOK'S DISEASE.
IF I CAN PUT MY HEAD TOGETHER WITH THEIRS, THEN WE CAN COME UP WITH A CURE.
WHO DID YOU HAVE IN MIND?
NO ONE AT THE MOMENT. THAT WILL BE THE FIRST STEP OF THE RESEARCH.
I NEED TO STUDY THE SITUATION, SEE WHO'S AVAILABLE AND WHERE THEY'RE LOCATED.
THEN I'LL FIND THEM AND BRING THEM HERE.
AND HOW WILL YOU CONVINCE THEM TO COME?
CASSANDRA, YOU'RE THE TOP BLACKMAILER IN THE WORLD.
I WOULD IMAGINE THAT YOU COULD PRETTY MUCH CONVINCE ANYONE TO DO WHATEVER YOU WANT THEM TO.
THAT MUCH IS TRUE.
SLATE.

SHIK
OW!
WHAT THE HELL, DUDE?!
THAT, PETER, WAS A TRACKING DEVICE.
WHAT, DID YOU THINK WE WOULD JUST LET YOU WALK OUT OF HERE UNATTENDED?
THAT DEVICE WILL INFORM US OF YOUR WHEREABOUTS WITHIN A HUNDRED-MILE RADIUS.
YEAH? AND WHAT HAPPENS IF I GO OUTSIDE OF THAT RADIUS?
IT WILL BLOW YOUR HEAD OFF.
OH. WELL...
OKAY, THEN.

NOW GET TO WORK.
BRING ME THE NAME OF A GENETICIST TO HELP YOU.
AND, PETER... IF ABIGAIL DIES BEFORE YOU CAN CURE HER--

YOU CAN TRIGGER THIS TO BLOW MY HEAD OFF PREMATURELY.
EXACTLY.

PLEASURE TO BE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU.

OKAY, THEN.

GOOD TALK.

BLOW HIS HEAD OFF? THE TRACKER CAN'T DO THAT.
YES, BUT HE DOESN'T *KNOW* THAT, AND I DOUBT HE'LL BE WILLING TO CALL MY BLUFF.
OKAY, DIVA.

IT'S A BLUFF. IT HAS TO BE.
BUT WHAT IF IT'S NOT?
DAMN IT. AND WHAT'S TO PREVENT HER FROM BLOWING MY HEAD OFF AFTER I CURE HER DAUGHTER, JUST TO BE VINDICTIVE?
MAN, THIS EVENING IS SPIRALING RIGHT DOWN THE--
HUH!
AND JUST LIKE THAT, IT'S LOOKING UP.
IT'S MANDY.
SHE OWES ME FIFTY BUCKS!
SHE'S HEADING OUT.
PERFECT.
I WONDER IF SHE REMEMBERS ME.
HI.
ACCCKKK!

HOW'S IT GOING, MANDY?
HAVE MY FIFTY DOLLARS YET?
N-NO. NOT YET.
I HOPE YOU WEREN'T GAMBLING IT AWAY IN THAT CASINO.
WHAT? NO, NOT AT ALL. I...I WAS...
YOU WERE WHAT?
APPLYING FOR A JOB.
REALLY?
YES.
WHAT KIND OF A JOB?
A DANCER IN THEIR SHOW.
HUNH. OKAY. SO YOU'RE A DANCER.
YOU AUDITION FOR A LOT OF SHOWS?
WELL... A FEW, YES. I HAD...
UHM... ARE THOSE FRIENDS OF YOURS?
FRIENDS? I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS IN--

HOLY CRAP.
ARE YOU KIDDING?
WHO THE HELL ARE THOSE GUYS?!
AND WHY IS ONE OF THEM WEARING MY ORIGINAL SCARLET SPIDER OUTFIT?
LOOKS PRETTY GOOD, ACTUALLY. REALLY GOOD.
THEY'RE MAKING A BREAK FOR THE CASINO! THAT SPELLS TROUBLE.
ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING HOW SLATE TOOK CARE OF THOSE GOONS WHO INVADED THE PLACE EARLIER.

YOU REALLY THINK PETER CAUSED HER TO WAKE UP BEFORE?
I THINK THAT WE HOLD OFF ON KILLING HIM BEFORE WE FIND OUT FOR SURE. YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND, SLATE. YOU DON'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN...
YEAH, I DO.
YOU DO?
WHAT'S HIS--
I DON'T TALK ABOUT HIM.
PITY. IN THAT CASE, LET'S TALK ABOUT THE SHOOTERS.
THE GOONS WHO TRIED TO SHOOT UP THE CASINO?
YES. I DON'T ACCEPT THE NOTION THAT IT WAS JUST A RANDOM HIT.
YOU THINK SOMEONE EITHER ENCOURAGED THEM OR HIRED THEM.
I DO.
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO FIND THEM AND QUESTION THEM.
SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM. AFTER ALL, THE POLICE HAVE TO EARN THE MONEY WE PAY THEM.
MR. SLATE...
YEAH?
THERE'S A PROBLEM DOWNSTAIRS.

TWICE? IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS?
IT'S, UH, KIND OF DIFFERENT. THREE GUYS IN SPIDER-MAN COSTUMES.
OH, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD.
HOW SHOULD I HANDLE IT, DIVA?
SAVE ONE FOR QUESTIONING.
AND THE OTHER TWO?
"KILL THEM. IT WILL SEND A MESSAGE."
EVERYONE'S STARING AT US.
LET THEM. WE HAVE A JOB TO DO.
WEARLOOKING FRCASSNDER MERKEY!
ISDWE ARLOOKINGFR CASSNDER MERKEY!
WATSA MADDER WFU?

DUDE, WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS.
WUD?
YOU'VE GOT CLOTH OVER YOUR FACE. YOU HAVE TO SPEAK SLOWLY AND DISTINCTLY BECAUSE OTHERWISE NOBODY KNOWS WHAT YOU'RE TALKING AB--
OH, FOR GOD'S SAKE.
I SAID WE ARE LOOKING FOR CASSANDRA MERCURY! WE WANT TO SEE HER IMMED--
SHUT UP.
URKH!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
WE'RE THE WEB SPINNERS.
LET FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD GO OR YOU'RE GOING TO REGRET IT.
AND BRING US CASSANDRA MERCURY.
GLK!
WHY DO YOU WANT TO SEE HER?
SHE'S A CRIMINAL.
SHE'S A CASINO OWNER. WHO TOLD YOU SHE'S A CRIMINAL?
GLKK!
CONTACTS.
ANSWER OR HE'S DEAD.
WE'RE NOT AFRAID OF YOU.

KRAAAAK
OH MY GOD!
NOBODY SAW THAT, RIGHT?
$100,000.00
STAR LORDS
$75,000
MINNIE MOUSE
HE'S NEXT UNLESS YOU ANSWER.
I... I...
TELL HIM...
I DON'T KNOW! HE WAS OUR CONTACT! HE KNEW!
THAT'S TOO BAD FOR YOU, THEN.

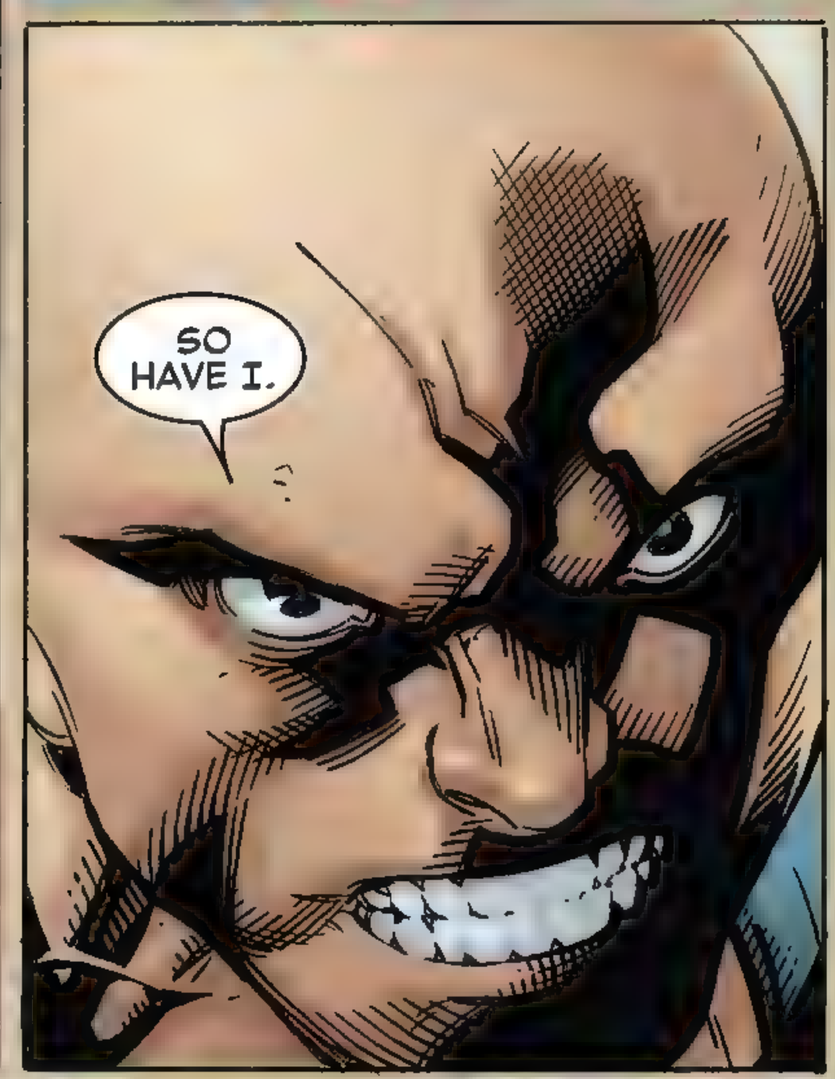
FWIPPP
WHAT IS THAT? SILLY STRING?
UH... YEAH.
TOO BAD YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING STRONGER.
MAYBE HE DOESN'T...
...BUT I DO.
WAAAAM

GET OUT. NOW...
SP-SPIDER-MAN! YOU--
NOW!
RIIIP
HE SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO THAT. JUST RIP THAT WEBBING OFF.
WAAAAM
OW.

WAM
WAM
WAM
WAM
WAM
OW!
OW!
OW!
OW!
OW!
OOOOF!
WAAAAK
DON'T KNOW WHO YOU OR YOUR IDIOT FRIENDS ARE...
...BUT I'M ENDING YOU.
YOU'RE...
...ENDING ME?

YOU KILLED THAT KID! HE WAS HARMLESS! TERRIFIED!
AND YOU SNAPPED HIS NECK!
HE WAS AN INTRUDER. LIKE YOU. AND SOON IT'S GOING TO BE YOUR NECK.
CASINO
NOT SOON. NOT EVER.

THIS IS WAR, BUDDY.
I'VE BEEN IN A FEW IN MY TIME.


SO HAVE I.

WELL THEN...

...LET THE BEST MAN WIN.

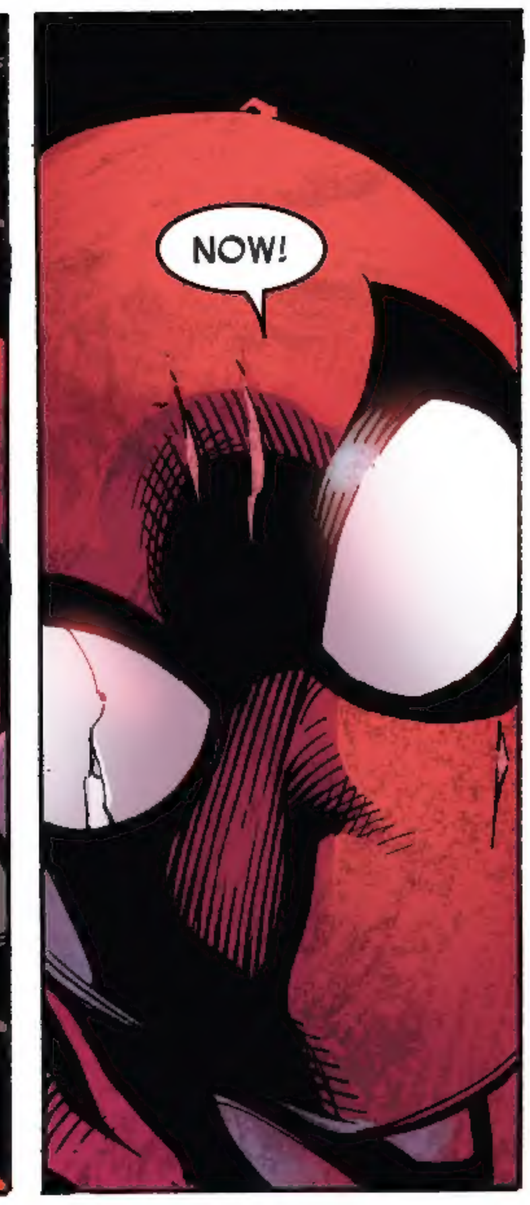
KRAAASH
HEY!
I WAS JUST LOOKIN' FOR YOU!

I NEED MORE QUARTERS.
"OH MY GOD. OH MY GOD..."

WE GOTTA GO BACK FOR ANDY'S BODY--
ARE YOU NUTS?! WE'LL WIND UP NEXT TO HIM!
AND THAT GUY WHO SAVED US! WAS THAT *REALLY* SPIDER-MAN?!

NOPE.
I'M THE SCARLET SPIDER.
JEEZ!
SO WHO ARE YOU GUYS AGAIN?

WE'RE... WE'RE MEMBERS OF *THE WEB SPINNERS.* WE'RE FANS OF... WELL, OF YOU! AND SPIDER-MAN AND HIS FRIENDS.
YEAH, I FIGURED THAT MUCH OUT.
THERE'S ABOUT HALF A DOZEN OF US. WE PATROL THE STREETS OF LAS VEGAS, SEARCHING FOR CRIME.
WE FIGURE IT'S WHAT SPIDER-MAN WOULD WANT.
YOU FIGURED WRONG.
YOU NEED TO STOP, OR YOU'LL END UP LIKE YOUR FRIEND BACK THERE.



JERK.

TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT:

LET US KNOW HOW WE'RE DOING! DROP US A LINE AT SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM!
BE SURE TO MARK IT OKAY TO PRINT!

ZONE